

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA: ESLITTLE:YT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086687

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CU

SUBJECT: FRG RELATIONS WITH CUBA (REF BONN 6560)

AT HIS REQUEST, GERMAN CHARGE NOEBEL CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH ON APRIL 24 TO DISCUSS FRG-CUBAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF SEVERAL "HINTS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS" FROM THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WISHED "TO TAKE UP RELATIONS", FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL HAD AUTHORIZED EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH THE CUBANS THROUGH FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN HAVANA (FRENCH HANDLE GERMAN REPRESENTATION THERE). PLAN WAS THAT SUGGESTION WOULD BE MADE TO CUBANS THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WERE CUBA TO TAKE STEPS SUCH AS RELEASE OF GERMAN NATIONAL IMPRISONED IN CUBA, OR RETURNING GERMAN PROPERTY WHICH HAD BEEN EXPROPRIATED. IN APPROVING THIS APPROACH SCHEEL HAD CONDITIONED ANY OVERTURES ON CONSULTATION WITH THE US.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST FRG COOPERATION WITH THE US POSITION TOWARD CUBA. EXPLAINING THAT US POLICY TOWARD CUBA HAD NOT CHANGED, HE STATED THAT LICENSING US AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE

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SUBSIDIARIES IN ARGENTINA TO EXPORT TO CUBA WAS A VERY

SPECIAL EXCEPTION. REFERRING TO ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN

STATES (OAS) CALL IN 1967 FOR FRIENDLY STATES NOT
MEMBERS OF OAS TO REFRAIN FROM HAVING ECONOMIC,
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND TO
PAST FRG COOPERATION IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID THAT
DECISION ON RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF GERMAN/CUBAN RELATIONS
IS ONE THAT FRG MUST MAKE.

IN CLOSING, CHARGE STATED THAT PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO
LET DEPARTMENT KNOW THAT FRG IS "IN THE PROCESS OF
THINKING" ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA. KISSINGER

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